



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 December 2008

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Associated Press reports that federal agents were trying to track down who used various post offices in Dallas, Texas, to send seven governors letters containing a white powder that was later determined to not be dangerous, FBI officials said Tuesday. (See item [13](#))
- According to Bloomberg, the crash of a U.S. F/A-18 fighter jet that killed at least three people in a San Diego neighborhood on Monday may have been caused by a power failure, a California congressman said. (See item [22](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 9, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Crews clean up 1,134-gallon oil leak in Santa Barbara Channel.** Cleanup crews in the Santa Barbara Channel on Monday mopped up an oil slick a mile-and-a-half long and 200 feet wide. By the end of the day, most of the 1,134 gallons that escaped from Platform A had been skimmed off the sea's surface into tanks on waiting boats, said a spokeswoman for the State Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response. Observers onshore and at the platform six miles off the coast had not sighted any seabirds coated in the oil. Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, the company that runs the platform, reported a leak from a finger-sized hole in a pump line about 8 a.m. Sunday. The company's initial estimate

was 30 gallons but by Monday morning, the leak was recalculated at more than 1,100 gallons, or 27 barrels. No major problems have been reported at any of the company's nine platforms off the Southern California coast, said a spokesman for the Minerals Management Service.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-oilspill9-2008dec09,0,3221617.story>

2. *December 8, Reuters* – (National) **Transco Northeast U.S. natgas line lifts cold alert.** Williams Cos Inc. unit Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp said Monday it would terminate an operational flow order (OFO) on its natural gas pipeline system as of Tuesday, as “more moderate” temperatures were expected to return to its northeast United States market area. Transco issued the OFO effective for December 5, ahead of arctic weather that moved into the Northeast over the weekend, boosting demand. But Transco warned a return to below normal temperatures again on Thursday would force the company to implement another systemwide Imbalance Operational Flow Order effective for December 11, the company said in a website posting. AccuWeather.com said that after a frigid Monday in the Northeast the rest of the week was expected to be a “wild mix of mid-spring temperatures, rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow.”

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0851802920081208>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *December 9, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Former chemical plant owner avoiding mercury cleanup.** A former owner of a Maine chemical plant is going to court to avoid removing 370,000 tons of mercury-laced soil, a project likely to cost more than \$100 million. St. Louis-based Mallinckrodt LLC sued in federal court to prevent the Maine Department of Environmental Protection from enforcing the cleanup. Mallinckrodt said it has undertaken more than \$35 million in stabilization and remediation measures at the former HoltraChem facility in Orrington. It said the DEP-ordered excavation would expose the public to mercury that is already secured. HoltraChem supplied chlorine and other chemicals for the paper industry and was New England's largest producer of toxic mercury at the time it closed in 2000. The DEP contends the soil removal is needed to protect the public health of area residents and the long-term ecological health of the Penobscot River.

Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/news/18234152/detail.html>

4. *December 9, Athens Barren Herald*– (Georgia) **U.S. 78 detoured after chemical spill.** U.S. Highway 78 in Oglethorpe County was closed throughout the day Monday as crews worked to clean up a chemical spill, according to the Washington post of the Georgia State Patrol. Authorities closed the road just after 7:30 a.m. when a tractor trailer crashed, killing the driver and spilling a chemical in the road. The patrol detoured drivers along Georgia Highway 22 and reopened the thoroughfare after dusk. The chemical included sodium hypochlorite (bleach), sodium hydroxide (lye or caustic soda) and sodium carbonate (soda ash), according to the Washington fire chief.

Source: [http://onlineathens.com/stories/120908/cop\\_365205401.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/120908/cop_365205401.shtml)

5. *December 8, WTKR 3 Norfolk* – (Maryland; Virginia) **Chemical Safety Board pushes for inspections after local fertilizer spill.** Monday morning, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released new details about their investigation, including the reason why two million gallons of liquid fertilizer spilled into a Chesapeake neighborhood, after a tank collapsed at Allied Terminals. Investigators say defective welds in the tank failed even though the tank was not filled to its limit. The CSB has also issued “urgent recommendations” to Allied Terminals, after finding three other fertilizer tanks that have similar problems. The chairman for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board says, “We are calling on Allied Terminals to reduce the hazard from the remaining tanks by lowering the maximum fill height.” The board has also ordered Allied Terminals to get a safety report from an engineering firm to figure out how safe the tanks are. The safety board has given Allied Terminals 30 days to take care of the recommendations given and submit a report to the city.

Source: [http://www.wtkr.com/Global/story.asp?S=9476054&nav=menu78\\_2\\_1\\_2](http://www.wtkr.com/Global/story.asp?S=9476054&nav=menu78_2_1_2)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *December 8, Air Force Times* – (National) **AF may use contractors for refueling missions.** With the purchase of the new KC-X tanker on hold, the Air Force is looking at hiring private contractors to fly aerial refueling missions. On December 16, the Air Force will explain to potential refueling firms the likely requirements for a private company to handle refueling missions. A notice from the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, cautioned that the service is not yet ready to ask for formal proposals. Instead, the service is looking at what contractors might have to offer and answer questions from potential contractors. Congress mandated looking at private refuelers in 2008.

Source:

[http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/12/airforce\\_private\\_refueling\\_120808w/](http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/12/airforce_private_refueling_120808w/)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *December 9, Arkansas Democrat Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Former bank exec pleads guilty to fraud.** The former senior vice president of lending at Twin City Bank in North Little Rock pleaded guilty Monday to money laundering and defrauding the bank of about \$2.1 million, the U.S. attorney’s office said. Conway-based Home Banc-Shares Inc., which owns Twin City Bank, disclosed the fraud in July but did not identify the bank officer responsible. The defendant was in charge of maintaining

customer relations with regard to deposits and addressing customer account problems. Because of his position, he had access to bank records and customer account records. The defendant was charged with diverting more than \$1.2 million in bank funds between October 2000 and June 2008 from customer accounts to his account. He also redirected more than \$172,000 from customer accounts to a third person for that person's benefit and more than \$705,000 from customer accounts so the funds could be recorded as fees paid to Twin City or interest paid by Twin City.

Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/Business/246005/>

8. *December 8, CNNMoney.com* – (National) **Small banks want their bailout.** So far, the Treasury Department has invested \$161.5 billion in 52 companies as of last week. Another 93 banks have won approval for \$48.4 billion in funds, according to analysts at Keefe, Bruyette and Woods. And thousands more are expected to apply for government funds by the time the deadline for private and thinly traded banks expires on Monday. As of last week, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation had already received approximately 1,200 applications from small community banks looking to enroll in the Troubled Asset Relief Program. That may come as a bit of a surprise given that many smaller banks have sidestepped the mortgage mess that has caused so many problems for large banks. But the slowing U.S. economy has prompted some banks to give the program a second look as they face the threat of rising loan losses in the coming year. The chief economist for the Independent Community Bankers of America said several smaller banks are applying for government funds even as board members and shareholders continue to weigh the merits and disadvantages of the program.

Source: [http://money.cnn.com/2008/12/08/news/companies/tarp\\_deadline/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2008/12/08/news/companies/tarp_deadline/index.htm)

9. *December 8, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Ex-loan officer gets federal prison sentence in mortgage scam.** An admitted mortgage fraudster was sentenced to 63 months in federal prison Monday for engineering a number of bogus mortgage loans during the real estate boom. The man from Southeast Portland allegedly put together as many as 70 fraudulent loans from more than 30 financial institutions. He took an estimated \$880,000 in kickbacks from deals inked from 2005 to 2007, according to court documents. He had formed his own company, MG Investments, and worked as a loan broker. He worked closely with several firms, most notably Lighthouse Financial of Vancouver. He would inflate the borrowers' income and embellish their employment history in order to qualify them. He pleaded guilty in October to four counts of bank fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering. The U.S. district judge also ordered the man to pay \$546,514.25 in restitution to Washington Mutual, which funded at least one of his mortgage deals.

Source:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/exloan\\_officer\\_gets\\_federal\\_pr.ht ml](http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/exloan_officer_gets_federal_pr.ht ml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation Sector**

10. *December 9, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Radar tapes of planes' collision**

**over Everglades to be checked by investigators.** Air safety investigators will study radar tapes to determine why two small planes collided in sunny, clear conditions over the Everglades on Saturday, killing four. Both planes had been on training missions and that could be a major factor in the accident, aviation experts said. It was South Florida's deadliest in-flight accident since June 2003, when five people died in a collision between two small planes over Deerfield Beach, and the fifth one in-flight in the past eight years. A National Transportation Safety Board official said investigators will examine all aspects of the accident, from the mechanical condition of the planes to the weather. The radar tapes likely will provide the most crucial evidence, as they should show the paths of the two planes before the accident. They also should reveal the specific angle they merged.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/services/newspaper/printedition/local/sfl-flbmidair1209sbdec09,0,4737060.story>

11. *December 9, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Where do you park 10,000 charter buses?** Transportation planners for the U.S. President-elect's inauguration say an estimated 10,000 charter buses will arrive in the Washington area for the event, posing what they say would be an unprecedented logistical nightmare. The estimate is based on bookings, queries from operators and projections of crowd size from D.C. officials, according to a senior vice president of the American Bus Association, which represents 800 independent bus operators. That number does not include smaller buses or passenger vans organized by churches and other groups. The sheer size of the charter bus contingent, carrying as many as a half-million people, has an enormous cascading effect on the rest of transportation planning. Widespread street closures downtown will prevent charter buses from dropping passengers off at events, so officials need to figure out where buses will park. The parking locations, in turn, will affect where and how many people squeeze on to packed Metro trains. "Finding a big piece of tarmac to park buses isn't the main issue," an organizer said. "Getting people from that chunk of pavement to where they want to be — that's where the big issue is going to be."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/08/AR2008120803650.html?hpid=topnews>

12. *December 8, Wilmington Star* – (North Carolina) **Independent investigators to probe fatal beam collapse.** State and federal officials decided Monday to rely on the findings of an independent investigator hired by the bridge contractor's insurer to figure out why a 121-ton girder collapsed last week at the second bridge to Oak Island, said a spokesman for the Federal Highway Administration. The Highway Administration and North Carolina Department of Transportation had planned to hire their own third-party investigator. The insurance company, Zurich, has hired the forensic and safety engineering firm Dickinson & Associates Inc. of Charlotte to conduct the investigation. Because 80 percent of the funding for the long-awaited project is from federal dollars, the Federal Highway Administration will be involved in the investigation process, the spokesman said. He added the administration would be ensuring that safe measures were followed in the construction process and that if mistakes were made, they are corrected. The project, due to be finished in December 2009, was ahead of schedule when the girder collapsed. A worker was killed when the concrete girder he was

tethered to collapsed and crushed him.

Source:

[http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20081208/ARTICLES/812080284/1155?Title=Independent investigators to probe fatal beam collapse](http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20081208/ARTICLES/812080284/1155?Title=Independent%20investigators%20to%20probe%20fatal%20beam%20collapse)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *December 9, Associated Press* – (National) **FBI probe of white powder letters focuses on Texas.** Federal agents were trying to track down who used various post offices in Dallas, Texas, to send seven governors letters containing a white powder that was later determined to not be dangerous, FBI officials said Tuesday. It is possible more letters could arrive in the next few days, since it can take time for them to go through the mailing process, said an FBI special agent in Dallas. The governors' offices in Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, and Rhode Island received the letters. Governors' offices in all other states have been warned to be on the lookout for suspicious letters, said an FBI spokesman. Tests showed the powder was not dangerous, but officials are still trying to determine what it was.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6155469.html>

14. *December 8, Desert News* – (Utah) **Suspicious powder at UVRMC is just talcum, officials say.** A suspicious white powder found at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center Monday afternoon turned out to be nothing more than talcum-type powder, officials said. Just after 1 p.m., two men came to the hospital's emergency department saying that, when they opened a letter at their Internet business in the Jamestown Complex, a white powder substance got on them, she said. They sealed the small envelope in a manila envelope and drove to the hospital. Once there, staff quarantined the men in a room and locked off the emergency department, she said. The hazardous materials team from Provo suited up and retrieved the envelope from the men, testing it outside the hospital. It turned out to be a non-toxic talcum-type powder, and the hospital was fully open again by 2:15 p.m. She said Provo Police will be taking over the investigation into who sent the powder.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,705269077,00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

15. *December 9, Associated Press* – (International) **Hong Kong reports bird flu outbreak.** Three dead chickens tested positive for bird flu in Hong Kong, prompting the city to suspend poultry imports for 21 days and begin slaughtering 80,000 birds, an official said Tuesday. The secretary for food and health said the chickens, found Monday at a farm with 60,000 birds, had the H5 virus and further tests were being done to see if they had the deadly H5N1 strain. The farm and neighboring poultry operations were declared part of an infected zone, and about 80,000 birds in the area would be killed to prevent the spread of the disease. He added that the 21-day ban on poultry



imports would last through the Christmas holiday. Hong Kong's government has been encouraging retailers to stop selling live birds, and the majority of shops have given up their licenses to sell live poultry.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081209/ap\\_on\\_re\\_as/as\\_hong\\_kong\\_bird\\_flu;\\_ylt=Ap3c\\_T61sHHYc77NPyw\\_TLgBxg8F](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081209/ap_on_re_as/as_hong_kong_bird_flu;_ylt=Ap3c_T61sHHYc77NPyw_TLgBxg8F)

16. *December 8, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Melamine found in Walgreens chocolate bars.** Melamine has surfaced in samples of chocolate bars that were sold with teddy bears at Walgreens drug stores nationwide. The national pharmacy chain is now recalling 173 of those products — approximately 9-inch-high Dressy Teddy Bears that come with 4-oz. chocolate bars — because of the contamination. A Walgreen's spokesman told ConsumerAffairs.com today that he did not know the levels of melamine in the products, which the company has sold since September. An analysis by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration confirmed the presence of melamine in samples of the chocolate sold with the teddy bears, the company said. The products involved in this recall have a UPC number of 047475864485 and their item number is 291332.

Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/12/chinese\\_formula16.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/12/chinese_formula16.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

17. *December 9, News Star* – (Louisiana) **Water official: Public notice no cause for concern.** Customers receiving water from the city of Monroe will get a public notice that the city's water supply violated the maximum contaminate level of coliform bacteria during the reporting period of November 1–30. The water superintendent said Monday water customers should not be concerned because the problem was immediately corrected. "We investigated and determined the violation was the result of routine testing of fire hydrants and the aging lines. We just want to assure people that it's safe — they don't have to boil. If it hadn't been [safe], we would have been required to notify everyone immediately." He said it was never an emergency situation. According to the superintendent, when coliform bacteria are found in any sample, there is follow-up testing to determine if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. Nothing was found in subsequent testing.

Source: <http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20081209/NEWS01/812090308>

18. *December 8, Desert Dispatch* – (California) **BNSF sludge spill damages city treatment plant.** A malfunction in the BNSF Railway wastewater treatment system led to an unknown quantity of partially treated oil sludge being released into the city sewer system and damaging the city's wastewater treatment plant. Two of four 18,000-gallon storage tanks used to hold oil sludge at the rail yard overflowed due to an equipment malfunction on Thursday, said a hazardous materials specialist with the San Bernardino County Fire Department hazardous materials division. The cause of the overflow is still unknown, but he said it was possibly related to a valve malfunction. An estimated 1,000 gallons of oil sludge overflowed inside the enclosed building where the storage

tanks are located, he said. An unknown additional amount got into the city sewer system and flowed to the city's wastewater treatment plant. BNSF treats its own petroleum waste, which comes from run-off throughout the rail yard, and then releases the treated wastewater to the city's treatment plant for a second round of purification. The oil sludge that made its way to the city's wastewater treatment plant damaged the headworks, which filters out solid matter from the sewage, and killed biological agents in the tanks used to purify the treated wastewater, according to a city spokesman. The incident did not shut down the wastewater plant completely for any period of time, but the city has had to add new chemicals and biological agents to the wastewater treatment system and is now sampling more frequently to make sure the system is working, he said.

Source:

[http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/sludge\\_4968\\_article.html/barstow\\_spill.html](http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/sludge_4968_article.html/barstow_spill.html)

19. *December 8, Waste News* – (Idaho) **Hecla Mining to pay fine to settle Clean Water Act violation.** Hecla Mining Co. will pay an \$85,000 penalty and \$17,000 in cash and emergency equipment to settle alleged Clean Water Act violations at its lead and zinc mine near Mullan, Idaho. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action is related to a 22,500-gallon spill of mine tailings, which included an estimated 898 gallons of liquid mill tailings and 191 pounds of solids, that entered the South Fork Coeur d' Alene River. Hecla failed to immediately report the spill, according to the EPA. Inspections revealed the company failed to adequately maintain storm water controls and had discharges from its outfalls that exceeded its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limits.

Source: <http://www.wastenews.com/email.html?id=1228754757>

20. *December 8, Westlands Water District* – (California) **Public water agencies throughout California file suit to prevent further water cutbacks.** The Westlands Water District today joined with 31 other public water agencies in the Central Valley in filing a lawsuit to block a new regulation that would enable State Fish and Game officials to cut off up to a million acre feet of water for two-thirds of California's people. Those reductions in freshwater supplies would come on top of the court-ordered cutbacks that last year reduced the State's water supplies by roughly one-third in the midst of the drought. If the new restrictions are enforced and the drought persists, the water resources director has warned that it "could create a water supply and delivery crisis the likes of which Californians have not seen in decades." In November, the Department of Water Resources joined with public water agencies from throughout California in submitting extensive scientific evidence in an unsuccessful effort to persuade the State Fish and Game Commission not to adopt this rule.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/Public-Water-Agencies-Throughout-California/story.aspx?guid={AF99A1B4-0DD4-4E52-80AA-4C28691199E1}>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. *December 9, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Computer stolen from hospital has**



**patients' info.** Police and security at Salem Hospital are investigating the theft of a laptop computer that contained personal and medical information on approximately 50 patients. A Hewlett-Packard laptop was stolen from the cardiology department between late November and last Thursday, when hospital nursing staff reported the theft to Salem police. In the police report, hospital staff said the laptop was stolen from a locked office in the Macomber building on the hospital campus. The hospital spokesman said the hospital's information technology department is trying to determine which patients were affected by the theft.

Source:

[http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local\\_story\\_344001636.html?keyword=topstory](http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_344001636.html?keyword=topstory)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Facilities Sector**

22. *December 9, Bloomberg* – (California) **U.S. fighter jet crash may have been caused by power failure.** The crash of a U.S. F/A-18 fighter jet that killed at least three people in a northern San Diego neighborhood may have been caused by a power failure, a California congressman said Tuesday. The congressman said in an e-mail statement that Monday's crash near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar was "likely unrelated" to structural problems with the F/A-18D planes that were identified in October. The fighter destroyed two homes and killed at least two adults and an infant when it plowed into the ground in the University City area of northern San Diego. The pilot ejected moments earlier and was in a stable condition, according to a statement issued by the base. The pilot, a member of the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, was working toward his qualifications for takeoff and landing from an aircraft carrier at the time of the crash. He crashed while heading back to Miramar from the USS Abraham Lincoln, said a base spokeswoman.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aommHSasaNv4&refer=us>

23. *December 9, Montpelier Times Argus* – (Vermont) **Bomb threat call causes evacuation.** The Vermont District Courthouse was evacuated Monday morning at about 8 a.m. after the court received a bomb threat from a female caller. The call was received by a court employee, who informed the court clerk of the threat. The clerk then notified courthouse security officers, who launched an established protocol for dealing with such threats. The court clerk said she notified tenants in the building of the threat, and all employees were evacuated to a pre-arranged location outside the building. Barre City Police were also notified. The all-clear was given around 9 a.m.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20081209/NEWS02/812090341/1003/NEWS02>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *December 9, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Kanawha County changes emergency response plan.** Kanawha County officials have changed an emergency response plan more than three months after a deadly explosion at the Bayer CropScience plant in Institute. Depending upon the severity of an event, the county emergency services director says the county will issue an automatic shelter-in place during a chemical emergency if officials can't get clear information about the incident within 10 minutes. Emergency services officials have criticized Bayer CropScience for failing to provide timely information following the August 28 incident in which two people died. The incident remains under federal, state and local investigation.  
Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/News/Kanawha/200812090106>
25. *December 8, Imperial Valley News* – (North Dakota) **Predator B unmanned aircraft will assist guarding Canadian border.** United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced Monday the arrival of its first Predator B unmanned aircraft system (UAS) on the northern border. This system — in use since 2005 on the southwest border — will enhance border security efforts and support CBP personnel on the ground along the northern border with Canada. The UAS is slated to begin operational flights as early as January 2009. CBP Air and Marine's UAS reduces the number of personnel required to gain operational control of the border and can assist other law enforcement agencies upon request. The aircraft and crews support the CBP priority mission of anti-terrorism as well as homeland security and disaster relief efforts. The terrain, which ranges from densely forested lands on the west and east coasts to open plains in the middle of the country, is comprised of many sparsely populated lands with limited Federal, state, and local law enforcement presence along the immediate border area. As such, the UAS will serve as a valuable tool in securing borders and supporting information sharing between and among law enforcement entities in this vast geography.  
Source:  
[http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3533&Itemid=1](http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3533&Itemid=1)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information Technology**

26. *December 9, IDG News Service* – (International) **New Web attack exploits unpatched IE flaw.** As Microsoft readies its latest set of security updates, online attackers have begun exploiting a new flaw in the company's Internet Explorer (IE) browser. The flaw was made public in Chinese language discussion forums two days ago by a security group called the Knownsec team. In tests, the flaw was used on IE 7 running on Windows XP, Service Pack 2. It has already been used by attackers who have hosted it on hacked Web sites to target unsuspecting visitors, said the CEO of security vendor Amromize Technologies. Now that the bug has been publicly disclosed, he expects attacks based on the flaw to become much more widespread. The code exploits a bug in the way IE handles XML (Extensible Markup Language) and works on the browser about "one in three times," the CEO said in an instant message interview. For the attack to work, a victim must first visit a Web site that serves the malicious JavaScript code

that takes advantage of the flaw. Microsoft is expected to release six critical patches Tuesday, including a fix for IE.

Source:

<http://www.itworld.com/security/58989/new-web-attack-exploits-unpatched-ie-flaw>

27. *December 8, Computer World* – (International) **SonicWall users exposed by license server breach.** A technical problem in a license management server at SonicWall Inc. created havoc last week for users of the company's firewall and e-mail security products, leaving many companies temporarily unprotected against spam, phishing and malware threats. It wasn't immediately clear how many customers were affected by the license server glitch, which began early December 2 and was not resolved until that afternoon. But numerous users posted angry messages on a support forum on SonicWall's Web site. An IT security administrator who reported the problem to Computerworld said via e-mail that SonicWall's license manager erroneously reset license keys for products, making the licenses appear to be invalid. A SonicWall spokeswoman confirmed that one system in the Sunnyvale, California-based company's license server pool "malfunctioned." That caused "some" license keys to be reset, requiring users to resynchronize them with SonicWall's servers after the problem was fixed, she said. A senior technical support engineer at SonicWall said in a post on the support forum that a license server problem shouldn't result in local product registration information being lost. But, he added, that did happen "for a number of units" in this case.

Source:

[http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=330934&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=330934&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

28. *December 8, SearchSecurity.com* – (International) **RIM updates BlackBerry Desktop Software to fix ActiveX flaw.** Research In Motion (RIM) has quietly released an update to its BlackBerry Desktop Manager, fixing an ActiveX vulnerability in the Roxio Media Manager that could be exploited by an attacker to cause a buffer overflow. RIM uses the media manager to synchronize BlackBerrys and PCs running Microsoft Windows. In its advisory to customers issued November 27, RIM said the flaw could be exploited if a user visits a malicious website that invokes the control. The company urged its customers to upgrade to the latest patch for the BlackBerry Desktop Software version 4.5, 4.6 or 4.7. The problem is in Macrovision's FLEXnet Connect, a software package that allows vendors to provide updates to applications, according to a vulnerability note issued by the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT). As a workaround, US-CERT said companies could disable ActiveX controls in the Internet Zone. RIM also issued recommendations on setting administrative roles in the BlackBerry Enterprise Server.

Source:

[http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid14\\_gci1341610,00.html#](http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid14_gci1341610,00.html#)

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Communications Sector**

29. *December 9, WTOP 103.5 Washington* – (District of Columbia) **Crowds could overwhelm cell towers.** The record crowds expected for the inauguration could mean cell phone towers will be overwhelmed and broadband Internet service slowed down, business and government leaders warned Monday. If 4 million to 5 million people show up as expected, the region could be in for a “logistical nightmare,” the Greater Washington Board of Trade president said.  
Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1542788>

30. *December 8, Emerson Network Power* – (National) **Emerson survey shows need for better, more consistent data center monitoring.** According to a survey conducted by the Aperture Research Institute within Emerson Network Power of more than 100 data center professionals, only 35 percent are using a single, dedicated monitoring system that provides the level of detail necessary for outage prevention and efficient incident management. Real-time infrastructure monitoring helps data centers predict faults, which enables them to prevent problems before they occur, to react quickly to incidents, and to effectively measure infrastructure utilization. The survey found that although 88 percent of the data center professionals surveyed monitor their infrastructure, less than 30 percent monitor more than 90 percent of their equipment, restricting their ability to respond to outages and carry out preventative maintenance. Also, 12 percent of those surveyed revealed that they do not monitor the infrastructure of their data centers at all, and these data centers are unlikely to be able to offer a high level of uptime as a result.  
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/Emerson-Survey-Shows-Need-For/story.aspx?guid={EBDF7957-D3C0-46B5-9076-8CFD0B5B5EA8}>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

31. *December 9, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Forest Service to burn NC land to clear explosives.** Forest rangers will burn up to 400 acres of underbrush in western North Carolina to clean up any scattered ammunition or explosives like those found when a man was arrested at a campsite last month. Underbrush will be burned in the Pisgah National Forest this week, the Asheville Citizen-Times reported Tuesday. The

area is south and west of Forest Road 476 in the Pink Beds hiking area. Ammunition and explosives were found in the area November 21 when officers arrested a man on a charge of failing to appear in Henderson County court on a drug charge. “It’s possible that there might be some more ammunition or explosive materials out in that area,” said a Forest Service spokesman. “In the interest of public safety, we’re going to do a prescribed burn of the underbrush to make sure there are no more firearms or ammunition or gunpowder still out there.”

Source: [http://www.fayobserver.com/article\\_ap?id=135841](http://www.fayobserver.com/article_ap?id=135841)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Dams Sector**

32. *December 8, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Dalles Dam to be upgraded in effort to save young salmon.** A new project at the Dalles Dam is designed to help young salmon slip past predators after they make it past the formidable dam. “The dams are required to spill 40 percent of the river,” said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager for the spill wall. The requirement is part of the rules in force for salmon protection under the Endangered Species Act. When the spill wall is done, it will direct young salmon toward a deep, swift-running channel known as a thalway that runs downriver below the surface near the northern riverbank. The contractor will build the first 300 feet of wall during the current in–water work period. They will continue to cast pillars on shore until pieces for the entire wall are completed. The remainder of the wall will be placed and completed between October 2009 and April 2010, in time for the annual spill season, when the largest number of juvenile fish migrate downstream. The finished wall will be 10 feet wide and about 830 feet long, with the first 200 feet being 43 feet high and the remainder being between 25 and 30 feet high.

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/outdoors/featured/35626084.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

**DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports** – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to [NICCCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCCReports@dhs.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List: Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List: Send mail to [NICCCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCCReports@dhs.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421 for more information.

---

## **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

## **Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.